

Appl. No. 09/379,215

Amendment Dated: December 10, 2003

Reply to Office action of August 12, 2003

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-17, and 20 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended.

In item 3 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-17, and 20 as being obvious over Gardill (U.S. 5,614,285) in view of Hawley's Condensed Chemical Dictionary (HCCD) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to define more clearly the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found on page 11, lines 1-9, of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, a brief review of the invention as claimed is provided. Amended claim 1 calls for, *inter alia*, a multilayer composite body having the following features:

thermoplastic layers ...;

natural fiber layers ...; and

at least one reinforcing insert ...;

only an outer one of said thermoplastic layers forming an outer surface of said multilayer composite body and forming at least one molded functional element on said outer surface ...
(Emphasis added by Applicant.)

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Gardill, as shown in Fig. 3, teaches a laminated configuration that is structured by using a form. It is thereby characteristic that the plurality of layers of the laminated configuration combine, together, to form a uniform structure. Therefore, in Gardill, all of the layers in the multilayer configuration form a united structure, in which all of the layers of the laminated configuration are formed according to the uniform structure.

In contrast, the invention according to amended claim 1 teaches to form structures from only the outer thermoplastic layer, without including further layers disposed between the thermoplastic layers.

Likewise, HCCD does not teach or suggest this feature.

Because neither Gardill nor HCCD teach or suggest, "Only an outer one of said thermoplastic layers ... forming at least one molded functional element on said outer surface," the invention according to amended claim 1 is not obvious. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over the art. Moreover, because all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-17, and 20 are solicited. In the event

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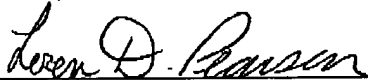
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the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, please telephone counsel so that patentable language can be substituted.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$110 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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